

### **REMARKS**

In the above-mentioned Office Action, all of the pending claims, claims 1-20, were rejected under §103(a) over the combination of Ling and Hammons.

The Examiner cited Ling for showing an encoder in which each channel is independently encoded based upon different coding rates. While the Examiner acknowledged that Ling fails to disclose a space-time encoder, the Examiner relied upon Hammons for showing a space-time encoder.

Responsive to the rejection of the claims, independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended, as set forth herein, in manners believed to distinguish better the invention of the present application over the cited combination of references.

Support for the amendments is found, for instance, on page 15, lines 3-6, page 15, line 13-page 16, line 4, and page 18, lines 5-17.

While Ling discloses an encoder 202, channel interleaver 204, and antennas 124, Ling fails to disclose an encoder that provides, at successive time periods, permutations of the coded symbols of a code vector to separate locations for communication therefrom in a manner such that, at completion of successive time periods, each coded symbol of a code vector is sent from the separate locations, all as now recited in claim 1, as amended. Claim 15, as amended, is also believed to be distinguishable over the Ling for this reason.

Hammons was relied upon merely for showing a space-time encoder and similarly also fails to disclose the structure, or corresponding method, as now recited in claims 1 and 15. Accordingly, no combination of Ling and Hammons can be formed to create the invention, as now-recited.

Amendments made to remaining ones of the dependent claims are made responsive to amendments made to their respective parent claims. These claims are believed to be distinguishable over the cited combination for the same reasons as those given with respect to their parent claims.

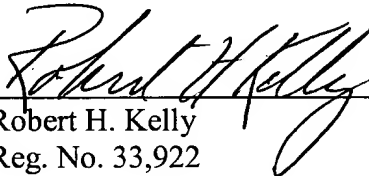
In light of the foregoing, therefore, independent claims 1 and 15, as now-amended, and the remaining ones of the dependent claims dependent thereon are believed to be in condition for

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allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration for allowance of these claims is respectfully requested. Such early action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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